

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 04777 050155 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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P R 040827 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4813

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 4777

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS: THE OUTSTANDING
DIFFERENCES

1. PHENG TOLD ME JULY 3 THAT HE AND PHOUMI HAVE GONE AS FAR AS THEY CAN GO IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE NEXT STEP IS FOR A HIGHER LEVEL TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES IN THE POSITIONS IDENTIFIED BY THE TWO NEGOTIATORS. PHENG SAID HE MET WITH PHOUMI JUNE 29, JULY 1 AND 2 AND THEY HAVE COMPLETED DISCUSSION OF EVERY ARTICLE IN THE IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOL. BOTH SIDES HAVE TABLED DRAFTS; THE LPF VERSION HAS 26 ARTICLES AND THE RLG PROPOSAL HAS 30. PHENG SAID THAT ON MOST MAJOR ISSUES THE TWO SIDES REMAIN FAR APART BUT AT LEAST THE NEGOTIATORS HAVE IDENTIFIED THE DIFFERENCES AND IN SOME INSTANCES NARROWED THEM DOWN.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR DIFFERENCES AS LISTED BY PHENG:

(A) VICE PRIME MINISTERSHIP FOR LPF: RLG REMAINS OPPOSED TO ONE VICE PRIME MINISTER-SHIP BY LPF AND IS STILL ASKING FOR TWO
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VICE PRIME MINISTERS: ONE FOR LPF AND ONE FOR THE RIGHT.

(B) DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS: LPF CONTINUES TO DEMAND MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WHICH RLG REFUSES TO CONCEDE TO LPF. PHOUMI SAID LPF NOT INTERESTED IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE, WHICH RLG HAS OFFERED IN PLACE OF INTERIOR.

(C) NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG: LPF HAS NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION AND CONTINUES TO HOLD OUT FOR STATIONING OF THREE LPF BATTALIONS IN VIENTIANE AND TWO BATTALIONS IN LUANG PRABANG. BOTH SIDES DO AGREE ON NUMBERS AND TYPE OF ARMS CARRIED BY JOINT POLICE FORCE IN THESE TWO CITIES. PHOUMI CONCEDED THAT PERHAPS "SLIGHTLY FEWER MEN MIGHT BE BROUGHT IN BY LPF TO PROTECT LPF MINISTERS," AND, ACCORDING TO PHUMI, THIS SUBJECT REMAINS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN SAM NEUA.

(D) DEMARCATION OF ZONES OF CONTROL: LPF REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE MANY POSITION AND AREAS CLAIMED BY RLG TO BE UNDER ITS CONTROL AT TIME OF CEASEFIRE.

(E) REMOVAL OF LPF FROM THAI BORDER: LPF REFUSES TO ACCEDE TO RLG SUGGESTION TO MOVE ITS POSITIONS EASTWARD FROM SITES WHERE LPF IS PRESENTLY ON THAI- LAO BORDER.

(F) FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR CIVILIANS: LFP OPPOSES RLG PROPOSAL PERMITTING FREE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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